

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05992 071112Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /125 W

-----084868 071135Z /23

R 071017Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3415

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5992

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, XH, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN EAST EUROPE OIL OFFENSIVE

1. IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY RETURNED JUNE 24 FROM A TWELVE-DAY SWING THROUGH SEVERAL CAPITALS OF EASTERN AND NORTHERN EUROPE. NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY (NIOC) PRESIDENT EGHBAL RETURNED FROM A SIMILAR TWO-WEEK TRIP ON JULY 4. THEIR PURPOSE WAS NOT ONLY TO CONSOLIDATE IRANIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES THEY VISITED, BUT ALSO TO EXPLOIT ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WHICH THEY PERCEIVE IN THAT REGION.

2. IN EXPLAINING IRANIAN PERCEPTIONS, KHALATBARY TOLD ME JULY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05992 071112Z

4 THAT THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE FEELLING A SEVERE ENERGY PINCH BECAUSE OF SOVIET INABILITY TO SUPPLY FUEL REQUIREMENTS FOR THEIR EXPANDING ECONOMIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANS ARE PRODUCING EXPORT SURPLUSES WHICH THE SOVIETS ARE INCREASINGLY UNABLE TO PAY FOR. CONSEQUENTLY, AS GOI SEES IT, IRAN IS A NATURAL TRADING PARTNER FOR THESE COUNTRIES.

3. EGHBAL TOLD ME JULY 6 THAT HIS VISITS TO SWEDEN, FINLAND, EAST GERMANY, POLAND AND BULGARIA HAD ALL PRODUCED NEW DEALS, EITHER IN DIRECT BARTER OR IN INCREASED CASH SALES, FOR IRANIAN OIL AND GAS. IN RETURN, IRAN WILL GET MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS (FROM POLAND, THE GERMANIES, ETC.) AND FOOD (ESPECIALLY FROM BULGARIA). MUCH OF THIS TRADE (ESPECIALLY THE GAS, WHICH MOVES BY PIPELINE) WILL CONTINUE TO FLOW THROUGH SOVIET TERRITORY, BUT THE TRANSACTIONS ARE MADE AND PAYMENTS CONSUMMATED DIRECTLY BETWEEN IRAN AND ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

4. THE IRANIANS TAKE A CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION FROM THEIR EXPANDING TRADE WITH EASTERN EUROPE NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS ECONOMIC BENEFITS BUT BECAUSE, IN THEIR VIEW, IT TENDS TO WEAKEN THE SOVIET GRIP ON EAST EUROPEAN ECONOMIES.

5. AS FURTHER EXPRESSION OF IRANIAN INTEREST IN THIS REGION, SHAH IS PLANNING AT LEAST TWO PERSONAL FORAYS INTO THE VARIOUS CAPITALS CONCERNED. HIS FIRST VISIT, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST 1977, WILL TAKE HIM TO POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND BULGARIA. HIS SECOND, WHICH WILL REPORTEDLY TAKE PLACE IN THE SPRING OF 1978, WILL TAKE HIM AT LEAST TO BUCHAREST AND POSSIBLY TO OTHER CAPITALS NOT REACHED IN THE 1977 TRIP.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TEHRAN05992
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0240
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770780/aaaacsbm.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6efb146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1931833
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN EAST EUROPE OIL OFFENSIVE
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, OVIP, XH, IR, (KHALATBARI, ABBAS ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6efb146f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009